

(b) A whistle shall be placed as high as practicable on a vessel, in order to reduce interception of the emitted sound by obstructions and also to minimize hearing damage risk to personnel. The sound pressure level of the vessel's own signal at listening posts shall not exceed 110 dB(A) and so far as practicable should not exceed 100 dB(A).

**§ 86.11 Fitting of more than one whistle.**

If whistles are fitted at a distance apart of more than 100 meters, they shall not be sounded simultaneously.

**§ 86.13 Combined whistle systems.**

(a) A combined whistle system is a number of whistles (sound emitting sources) operated together. For the purposes of the Rules a combined whistle system is to be regarded as a single whistle.

(b) The whistles of a combined system shall:

(1) Be located at a distance apart of not more than 100 meters,

(2) Be sounded simultaneously,

(3) Each have a fundamental frequency different from those of the others by at least 10 Hz, and

(4) Have a tonal characteristic appropriate for the length of vessel which shall be evidenced by at least two-thirds of the whistles in the combined system having fundamental frequencies falling within the limits prescribed in § 86.03, or if there are only two whistles in the combined system, by the higher fundamental frequency falling within the limits prescribed in § 86.03.

NOTE: If due to the presence of obstructions the sound field of a single whistle or of one of the whistles referred to in § 86.11 is likely to have a zone of greatly reduced signal level, a combined whistle system should be fitted so as to overcome this reduction.

**§ 86.15 Towing vessel whistles.**

A power-driven vessel normally engaged in pushing ahead or towing alongside may, at all times, use a whistle whose characteristic falls within the limits prescribed by § 86.03 for the longest customary composite length of the vessel and its tow.

**Subpart B—Bell or Gong**

**§ 86.21 Intensity of signal.**

A bell or gong, or other device having similar sound characteristics shall produce a sound pressure level of not less than 110 dB at 1 meter.

**§ 86.23 Construction.**

Bells and gongs shall be made of corrosion-resistant material and designed to give a clear tone. The diameter of the mouth of the bell shall be not less than 300 mm for vessels of more than 20 meters in length, and shall be not less than 200 mm for vessels of 12 to 20 meters in length. The mass of the striker shall be not less than 3 percent of the mass of the bell. The striker shall be capable of manual operation. Note: When practicable, a power-driven bell striker is recommended to ensure constant force.

**Subpart C—Approval**

**§ 86.31 Approval. [Reserved]**

**PART 87—ANNEX IV: DISTRESS SIGNALS**

Sec.

87.1 Need of assistance.

87.3 Exclusive use.

87.5 Supplemental signals.

AUTHORITY: 33 U.S.C. 2071; 49 CFR 1.46.

**§ 87.1 Need of assistance.**

The following signals, used or exhibited either together or separately, indicate distress and need of assistance:

(a) A gun or other explosive signal fired at intervals of about a minute.

(b) A continuous sounding with any fog-signaling apparatus;

(c) Rockets or shells, throwing red stars fired one at a time at short intervals;

(d) A signal made by radiotelegraphy or by any other signaling method consisting of the group . . . — — — . . . (SOS) in the Morse Code,

(e) A signal sent by radiotelephony consisting of the spoken word "May-day";

(f) The International Code Signal of distress indicated by N.C.

### § 87.3

- (g) A signal consisting of a square flag having above or below it a ball or anything resembling a ball;
- (h) Flames on the vessel (as from a burning tar barrel, oil barrel, etc.);
- (i) A rocket parachute flare or a hand flare showing a red light;
- (j) A smoke signal giving off orange-colored smoke;
- (k) Slowly and repeatedly raising and lowering arms outstretched to each side;
- (l) The radiotelegraph alarm signal;
- (m) The radiotelephone alarm signal;
- (n) Signals transmitted by emergency position-indicating radio beacons;
- (o) Signals transmitted by radiocommunication systems, including survival craft radar transponders meeting the requirements of 47 CFR 80.1095.
- (p) A high intensity white light flashing at regular intervals from 50 to 70 times per minute.

[CGD 81-007, 47 FR 16174, Apr. 15, 1982, as amended by CGD 89-024, 55 FR 3947, Feb. 6, 1990; CGD 94-011, 63 FR 5732, Feb. 4, 1998]

#### § 87.3 Exclusive use.

The use or exhibition of any of the foregoing signals except for the purpose of indicating distress and need of assistance and the use of other signals which may be confused with any of the above signals is prohibited.

[CGD 81-007, 47 FR 16174, Apr. 15, 1982]

#### § 87.5 Supplemental signals.

Attention is drawn to the relevant sections of the International Code of Signals, the Merchant Ship Search and Rescue Manual, the International Telecommunication Union Radio Regulations and the following signals:

- (a) A piece of orange-colored canvas with either a black square and circle or other appropriate symbol (for identification from the air);
- (b) A dye marker.

[CGD 81-007, 47 FR 16174, Apr. 15, 1982, as amended by CGD 89-024, 55 FR 3947, Feb. 6, 1990]

## PART 88—ANNEX V: PILOT RULES

Sec.

88.01 Purpose and applicability.

## 33 CFR Ch. I (7-1-04 Edition)

- 88.03 Definitions.
- 88.05 Copy of rules.
- 88.09 Temporary exemption from light and shape requirements when operating under bridges.
- 88.11 Law enforcement vessels.
- 88.12 Public safety activities.
- 88.13 Lights on moored barges.
- 88.15 Lights on dredge pipelines.

AUTHORITY: 33 U.S.C. 2071; 49 CFR 1.46.

SOURCE: CGD 80-158, 47 FR 16175, Apr. 15, 1982, unless otherwise noted.

#### § 88.01 Purpose and applicability.

This part applies to all vessels operating on United States inland waters and to United States vessels operating on the Canadian waters of the Great Lakes to the extent there is no conflict with Canadian law.

#### § 88.03 Definitions.

The terms used in this part have the same meaning as defined in the Inland Navigational Rules Act of 1980.

#### § 88.05 Copy of rules.

After January 1, 1983, the operator of each self-propelled vessel 12 meters or more in length shall carry on board and maintain for ready reference a copy of the Inland Navigation Rules.

#### § 88.09 Temporary exemption from light and shape requirements when operating under bridges.

A vessel's navigation lights and shapes may be lowered if necessary to pass under a bridge.

#### § 88.11 Law enforcement vessels.

(a) Law enforcement vessels may display a flashing blue light when engaged in direct law enforcement or public safety activities. This light must be located so that it does not interfere with the visibility of the vessel's navigation lights.

(b) The blue light described in this section may be displayed by law enforcement vessels of the United States and the States and their political subdivisions.

[CGD 80-158, 47 FR 16175, Apr. 15, 1982, as amended by CGD 90-032, 56 FR 33385, July 22, 1991]